

Message Text

SECRET

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NEA:EABINGTON

S/S-O:MTANNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 121084

EXDIS

FOR RPT AMMAN 2622 ACTION SECSTATE 17 MAY QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2622

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

1. AS AIR DEFENSE QUESTION PROCEEDS FURTHER, WE WILL HAVE NUMBER OF ISSUES TO RAISE AND SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE. WE FIND OURSELVES AT SOME DISADVANTAGE IN NOT KNOWING WHAT SAUDIS MAY HAVE SAID TO US IN RIYADH LAST WEEK -- IF ANYTHING. A PRECIS OF THEIR LATEST ATTITUDE AS CONVEYED TO US WOULD BE ENOUGH TO ALLOW US TO MAKE SOME MORE INFORMED JUDGMENTS FROM HERE IN TERMS OF HOW WE HANDLE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS FOR THE FUTURE.

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2. JORDANIANS HAVE OF COURSE NOT HEARD FROM SAUDIS.

THEY HAVE NOT PRESSED ME FOR INFORMATION ON SAUDI VIEWS
AND I HAVE NOT OFFERED THEM ANY AND DO NOT INTEND TO
DO SO.

3. WE WILL BE SENDING YOU TODAY A CABLE WITH OUR
THOUGHTS ON THE QUESTION OF CONTINUING HAWK TRAINING
FOR JORDANIANS NOW IN THE US AND CONTRACT TERMINATION.

4. WE ARE ALSO PREPARING FOR YOU SOME MORE BROADLY
ADDRESSED CONSIDERATIONS FOR HOW SOME OF THE POSSIBLE
CHANGES IN RELATIONSHIPS HERE MAY AFFECT DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE AREA.

5. WE HAVE ONE OTHER POTENTIAL QUESTION. ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY BROWNMAN WILL BE ARRIVING HERE
ON MAY 21, THE PENULTIMATE DAY OF THE VISIT OF SOVIET
AIR MARSHALL PAVEL KUTAKHOV. BROWNMAN AND PARTY ARE
FLYING HERE FROM SAUDI ARABIA. HIS VISIT HAS BEEN LONG
PLANNED AND ANTEDATES RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON HAWKS. I
AM INCLINED TO LET VISIT PROCEED AS PLANNED SINCE
AROUND THE PRESENT TIME ANY VISIT REGARDLESS OF TIMING
WILL RAISE QUESTION IN PEOPLES MIND OF A POSSIBLE
US-SOVIET AUCTION OVER AIR DEFENSE.
HOWEVER CANCELLATION WILL RAISE EVEN MORE IMMEDIATE
PROBLEMS BETWEEN US AND JORDANIANS IN TERMS OF POSSIBLY
CHANGED SIGNALS FROM THE US. MY RECOMMENDATION
THEREFORE IS TO KEEP VISIT ON SCHEDULE. JORDANIANS
AT LEVEL OF CINC JAF ARE FULLY AWARE OF VISIT AND
ITS OVERLAP WITH SOVIETS AND WANT TO KEEP IT THE WAY
IT IS NOW SET. BROWNMAN WOULD I AM SURE HAVE A PROBLEM
WITH CHANGE AND THERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT NON-AIR
DEFENSE RELATED MILITARY ASSISTANCE REASONS FOR HIS
COMING HERE.
PICKERING
UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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